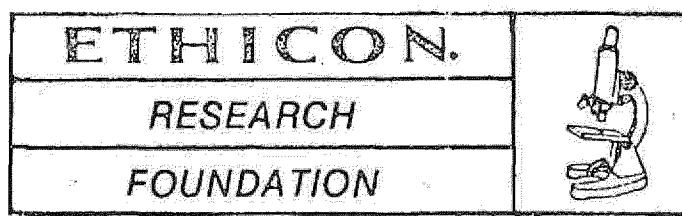


# **EXHIBIT M**

83 0759

CONFIDENTIAL-For internal use only  
unless authorized by the director of  
ERF and/or the director of medical  
affairs.



To: Dr. A. Lunn

Subject: PROLENE\* (POLYPROPYLENE) MICROCRACKS

March 23, 1983

cc: Mr. E. A. Block

Dr. A. W. Fetter

Dr. A. J. Levy

to

Dr. R. L. Kronenthal

Mr. R. Lilienfeld

Dr. D. C. Marshall

Dr. A. Melveger

Dr. W. D. Sheffield

RDCF

Tony,

Since the latest "human retrieval" specimens of PROLENE suture showed surface microcracking (ERF Acc. No. 83-165), I thought it would be useful to review the histological preparations from past samples more critically. The slides were reviewed by light microscopy using polarized light to help identify the cracking. The results are listed below.

ERF Accession No.	PROLENE Suture Size	Site	In Vivo Residence	Fixative	Findings
70-148	not identified	abdomen	3-5 years	formalin	no cracking noted
79-220	Sample 1A 5/0	vascular graft	6 years	formalin	cracking evident
	Sample 2 5/0	vascular graft	2.5 years	formalin	no cracking noted
79-320	5/0	vascular graft	4.5 years	formalin	cracking evident
81-266	3/0, 4/0 or 5/0	vascular graft	7.5 years	formalin	no cracking noted

Attached are photographs of samples from ERF Acc. No. 79-220 and 79-320. The original 35mm slides are available. If you felt it appropriate, I'd be happy to show these at the next PROLENE Microcrack Committee meeting.

*Barbara*  
B. Matlaga

799A/drp

Attachments

ETHICON, INC.  
MAR 25 1983  
RD-Central File

\*Trademark

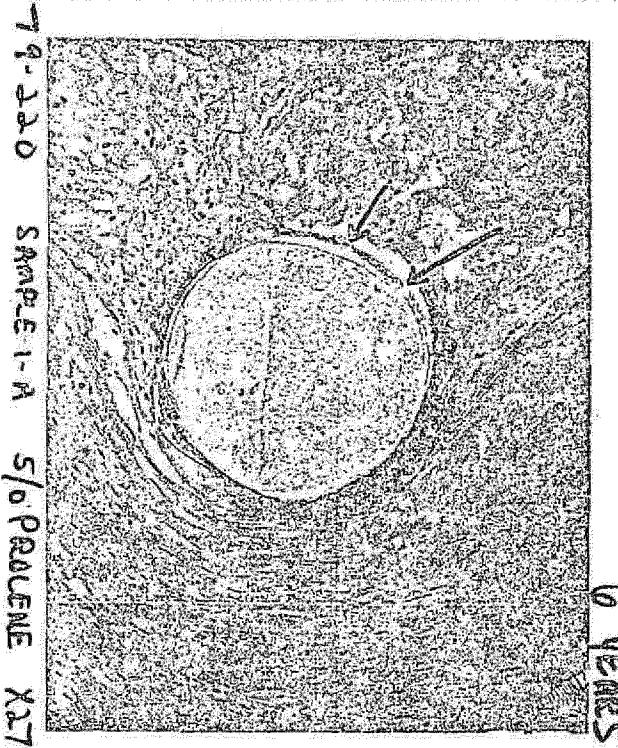
79-320

SECTION F

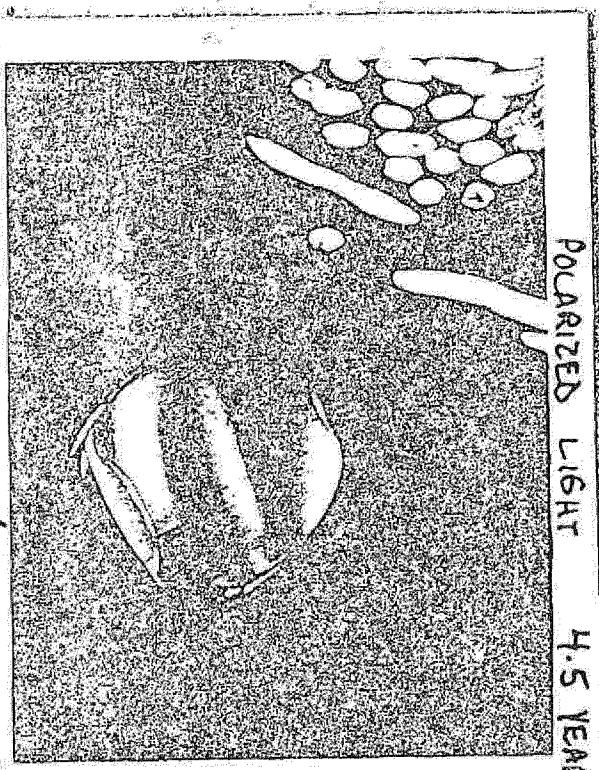
5/0 PROLENE X270



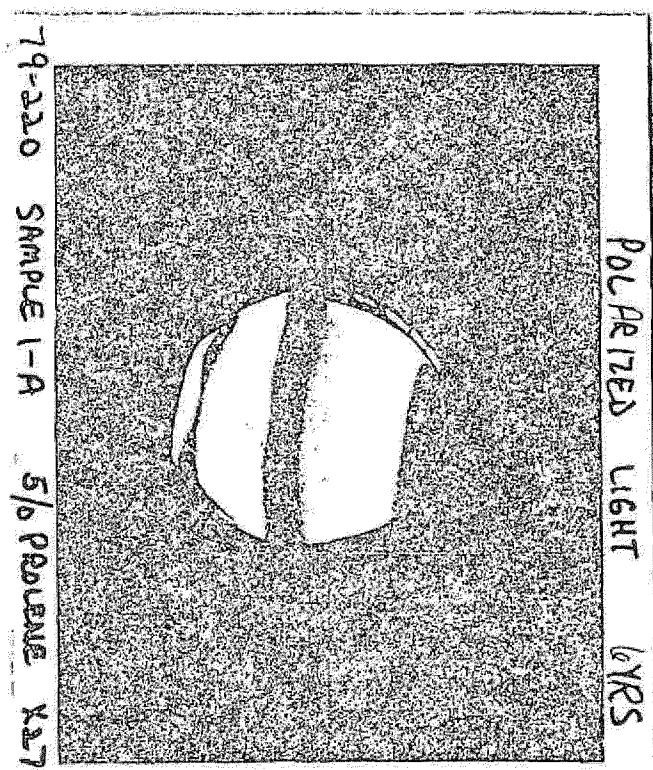
4.5 YEARS



6 YEARS



POLARIZED LIGHT  
4.5 YEARS



POLARIZED LIGHT  
6 YRS